

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 8-17, 19, 20 and 21 are amended. No claims are cancelled, claims 1-23 remain pending.

Claims 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 19 and 21 have been amended to clarify that the pointer identifies the location and the protocol, eliminating the conditional language that the Examiner points out in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 14, 16-18 and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Hemphill. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1, 8-17 and 20 overcome the rejection.

Hemphill purports to disclose generating an event notification message, wherein the event notification message may include a URL or the like to locate a file in the network that provides further information related to a detected management event (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 20-23).

As recited in the claims, aspects of the present invention relate to a system and method in which the response transmitted to the network management system includes more than one pointer indicating the locations where additional information (relating to the condition that prompted the response) can be found.. As described, for example, at paragraph [0029], this aspect may allow for pointers such as Internet or URL addresses which identify the files and directories as well as protocols required for their use. Different pointers of the same response can address to various network elements. Hemphill fails to teach or suggest such a system.

To the contrary, while Hemphill may teach the use of a single URL per notification, it is silent regarding more than one link per notification. In certain embodiments, the multiple links as recited in the amended claims may allow for the use of, for example, mirrored locations or databases to which the additional information is linked. In this case, where the originating node is in a failed or error state, the information may still be retrieved from an alternate node. In this implementation, an alarm may include one link to the originating node and another link to another network node/server mirroring the error log on the originating node, thereby allowing the network management system to recover prior masked errors even if a disk on the originating node were ruined in the fault. (See, e.g., paragraph [0036] of the

specification). Hemphill does not provide, and appears to be unable to provide, this functionality.

Because Hemphill fails to teach or suggest at least one element of the pending claims, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

Claims 4-6, 9-13, 15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hemphill in view of Leong. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that Leong fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hemphill outlined above. Specifically, Leong merely purports to teach a method for performing a network management transaction between a network device and a remote device in which information is stored in a predetermined location in a predetermined form. As noted in the Office Action, the function information is stored in a remote file that is determined by an agent.config file. (Office Action, ¶20).

The disclosure of Leong fails to teach anything regarding a system and method in which the response transmitted to the network management system includes more than one pointer indicating the locations where additional information (relating to the condition that prompted the response) can be found. As described above, the multiple pointers may allow for improved functionality in the case that a resource is in an error or failed state by providing pointers to multiple resources. Because Leong, alone or in any proper combination with Hemphill, fails to teach or suggest the recited more than one pointer, or even to recognize the problem to which the present invention's solution may be applicable, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant's Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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